



HAPPY AUGUST!



Floating Lantern Peace Ceremony

In honour of those lost in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Calgary Floating Lanterns has been hosting the Floating Lantern Peace Ceremony since 2013 with the goal of raising awareness of the risks associated with nuclear weapons and uniting people to stand for peace.

Come and take in the stunning beauty of the lanterns on the pool at Olympic Plaza. This is an annual peace festival that promotes the goal of creating a society devoid of violence and a family event in the summer that is filled with musical performances, motivational talks, and the beauty of lanterns on the pool.

"Give the prospect of peace a chance." Light a lamp for peace with fellow Calgarians and global citizens.

CALGARY JAPANESE FESTIVAL "OMATSURI"

Omatsuri, which translates to "festival" in Japanese, is a customary communal event in which people express gratitude for a bountiful harvest, good health, social harmony, and reverence for their ancestors. It is a significant cultural event that has been celebrated in Japan for many centuries and is still going strong now.



With the help of over 400 volunteers and entertainers from all over Alberta, the festival has expanded to entertain up to 7,500 attendees each year. Traditional Japanese food, a variety of entertainment options, cultural exhibits, a kids' zone, and martial arts demonstrations are all available at Omatsuri. As for the guys, they can stop by our beer and sake garden to sample some of the most well-liked brands. For the ladies, we have a market where over 25 sellers showcase their traditional and one-of-a-kind crafts, items, and gifts.

QIXI FESTIVAL (七夕節)



The Qixi Festival (七夕節), also called the Double Seventh Festival or Chinese Valentine's Day, happens every year on the seventh day of the seventh month in the lunar calendar. This year, it falls on August 22. The festival has been celebrated for more than 2,000 years and has a story from Han dynasty.

The legend of Chinese Valentine's Day is about two lovers named Zhinhu (織女) and Niulang (牛郎). Zhinhu was a girl who weaved, and she was the daughter of a powerful goddess. Niulang was a humble cowherd. They fell in love with each other at first sight and got married. Zhinhu gave birth to a boy and a girl. However, when Zhinhu's mother found out that her daughter had married an ordinary working class, she took Zhinhu back to heaven. She made a huge river, called the Milky Way, to separate the couple and keep them apart.

But something special happened because of their love. The magpies on land saw how much Zhinhu and Niulang loved each other. They flew up to heaven and created a bridge across the river, allowing the lovers to meet again. Zhinhu's mother was touched by their love and decided to let them meet once a year on the same day—the seventh day of the seventh lunar month.

That's why the Qixi Festival is celebrated to remember the love story of Zhinhu and Niulang. It's a special day when people express their love and affection for each other.

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

August 1: Lughnasadh

August 5: Floating Lantern Ceremony

August 11 - 12: Calgary Japanese Festival "Omatsuri"

August 11-13: Calgary Dragon Boat Festival

August 12: Franco Festival Calgary

August 17 - 26: Global Fest: Cultural & Fireworks Festival

August 18 - 20: Expo Latino

August 22: Qixi Festival

Visit this site for more festivals in Calgary:

<https://www.todocanada.ca/festivals-in-calgary/>

LUGHLUGHNASADH

Lughnasadh or Lughnasa is an official Irish holiday and Gaelic festival that marks the start of the harvest season. It has historical significance in Ireland, Scotland, and the Isle of Man. Lughnasadh is one of the four Gaelic seasonal festivals, alongside Samhain, Imbolc, and Beltane. This festival, which occurs on 1 August or around that time, has its roots in pagan traditions.

The festival derives its name from the god Lugh and is mentioned in early Irish literature. Lughnasadh was a time for communal gatherings that involved religious ceremonies, ritual athletic competitions (such as the Tailteann Games), feasting, matchmaking, and trading. It took place during a challenging period for farmers when the old crops had been harvested, and the new ones were not yet ready. Pilgrimages to holy wells were also part of the festivities. The religious rites included offering the First Fruits, feasting on new food and bilberries, sacrificing a bull, and performing a ritual dance-play where Lugh symbolically secured the harvest for humanity and defeated blight.

Lughnasadh customs endured until the 20th century, known by various names such as 'Garland Sunday,' 'Bilberry Sunday,' 'Mountain Sunday,' and 'Crom Dubh Sunday.' The tradition of climbing hills and mountains during Lughnasadh survived, albeit with a Christian interpretation, as seen in the 'Reek Sunday' pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick. Some fairs also trace their origins back to Lughnasadh, like the Puck Fair.

In recent times, Celtic neopagans have revived the observance of Lughnasadh as a religious holiday, while in certain regions, aspects of the festival have been revived as cultural events.



REFERENCE

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